

CABE Board Recognition Awards

Board Leadership Award and Board of Distinction Award

CABE believes that Boards of Education and Superintendents which exhibit the most effective leadership are characterized by their ability to work together as “teams.” The **CABE Board Recognition Awards** are designed to recognize Boards which work effectively in this manner. Boards which fulfill 22 of the following 37 Level One criteria, including a minimum of three in each area, will earn the Level One **CABE Board Leadership Award**.

In order to appropriately recognize those Boards which are truly exemplary, CABE has now established a second level of awards, the **Board of Distinction Award**. Only Boards which have achieved Level One distinction at least twice in the prior four years are eligible to receive the **Board of Distinction Award**.

Please respond to the criteria requested on this form and send your information, with supporting data, to CABE when you believe your Board has earned a Leadership Award or a Board of Distinction Award. If you have any questions, need further information, or require help in satisfying any of the criteria, please contact us for assistance.

Deadline for submission is: **Friday, October 2, 2026**

REQUIRED CRITERIA

1. Board Leadership/Student Achievement

Level One (minimum of three)

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ A. The Board has developed district goals for this year. (provide copy of goals) | ☐ D. The Board uses data to make informed decisions regarding student achievement. (provide examples) |
| ☐ B. The Board has conducted a self-evaluation and developed a plan for improvement in the past 12 months. (provide copy of plan or descriptive narrative) | ☐ E. The Board addresses issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion. (provide examples) |
| ☐ C. The Board has conducted a superintendent evaluation in past 12 months. | |
| ☐ D. The Board monitors its performance against a Board of Education code of conduct. (provide copy of code) | |
| ☐ E. The Board has conducted meetings pursuant to Board policy. | |
| ☐ F. The Board has established a calendar to ensure all responsibilities are conducted in timely manner. (provide copy of meeting calendar) | |
| ☐ G. The Board ensures that student voice is part of its decision-making process. (provide bylaws that allow for student voice) | |
| ☐ H. The Board models civil discourse while conducting Board business. (provide examples) | |
| ☐ I. The Board conducts orientation for new Board members. (provide agenda or bylaws) | |

Level Two (minimum of three)

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ A. The Board of Education works to improve student achievement. (provide description) | |
| ☐ B. The Board relates the mission statement and goals to agenda items. (provide examples) | |
| ☐ C. The Board supports the appropriate use of technology in educational programming. (provide examples) | |
| | ☐ 2. Board Member Professional Development |
| | Level One (minimum of three) |
| | ☐ A. A majority of Board members have taken part in workshops or other in-service training during the last year. (provide list of workshops and/or in-service training) |
| | ☐ B. The Board provides adequate funds to permit Board members to take part in training. (provide budget or listing for Board professional development) |
| | ☐ C. A majority of the Board attended the CABE/CAPSS Convention in the last 12 months. (provide list of Convention participants) |
| | ☐ D. A majority of the Board participated in the CABE Board Member Academy in the last 12 months. (provide list of programs and board members who attended) |
| | ☐ E. The Board has used a CABE facilitator or other outside group for Board workshop/retreat in last 12 months. (provide agenda) |
| | ☐ F. New Board members are provided orientation, including attending CABE New Board Member Orientation. (provide list of 2025-2026 participants) |
| | ☐ G. The Board has participated in professional development about issues of diversity, equity and inclusion. (provide a list of workshops and provider) |

CABE Board Recognition Awards

Board Leadership Award and Board of Distinction Award

Level Two (minimum of two)

- ☐ A. The Board has developed district goals and reviews them on a regular basis. **(provide examples)**
- ☐ B. The Board has incorporated Board professional development into policy. **(provide examples)**
- ☐ C. The Board holds a retreat outside of a regular meeting with a component offering professional development. **(provide copy of agendas)**

3. Policy

Level One (minimum of three)

- ☐ A. The Board has developed and adhered to procedure for policy review. **(provide procedure)**
- ☐ B. The Board has a regular process for reviewing policies every three years.
- ☐ C. The Board uses CABE or a similar policy update service to ensure that policies remain current.
- ☐ D. The Board has adopted all required policies.
- ☐ E. The Board has reviewed appropriate policies as law and regulations have changed.
- ☐ F. The Board relies on policies as “living documents,” by referring to them at Board meetings or in Board agendas.
- ☐ G. The Board provides the district policy manual in a searchable online version. **(provide URL)**
- ☐ H. The Board has a Code of Ethics. **(provide Code of Ethics)**

Level Two (minimum of three)

- ☐ A. The Board relates applicable agenda items to appropriate policies. **(provide sample agendas that show this practice)**
- ☐ B. Policy discussions are a regular part of Board meetings. **(provide agendas where this takes place)**
- ☐ C. The Board has adopted a policy addressing diversity equity, and inclusion. **(provide policy)**
- ☐ D. The Board has adopted a policy on civility. **(provide policy)**

4. Community Relations

Level One (minimum of three)

- ☐ A. The Board has clear, written policies on Community-Board Relations. **(provide copy)**
- ☐ B. The Board provides opportunities for appropriate participation at meetings by members of the community. **(provide copies of two recent agendas)**
- ☐ C. The Board seeks active community involvement with the schools. **(provide examples)**
- ☐ D. The Board demonstrates cooperation with news media. **(describe)**

- ☐ E. The Board promotes the school system to the public. **(provide copies of information disseminated)**
- ☐ F. The Board disseminates information to the public on its decisions in a unified, timely manner. **(provide copy of information provided)**

Level Two (minimum of two)

- ☐ A. The Board sponsored a community-wide discussion of issues (courageous conversations, community conversations, CABE Equity Toolkit, etc.) during the past year. **(provide agenda and report the end results of the program)**
- ☐ B. The Board has successfully worked with other community leaders. **(provide description and/or supporting documentation)**
- ☐ C. The Board works with the community's local cable access channel. **(provide description)**
- ☐ D. The Board works with other Boards of Education. **(provide description)**

5. Related Organizational Leadership

Level One (minimum of three)

- ☐ A. A Board member serves on the CABE Board of Directors. **(provide name)**
- ☐ B. One or more Board members are active participants in the Convention Committee, CABE Government Relations Committee, Resolutions Committee or Federal Relations Network. **(provide name(s))**
- ☐ C. One or more Board members actively serve on a RESC Board. **(provide name(s) and RESC)**
- ☐ D. One or more Board members participated in the NSBA Convention, CUBE or other NSBA-sponsored activity in the last 12 months. **(provide name(s))**
- ☐ E. One or more Board members have participated in the CABE Delegate Assembly or Day-on-the-Hill in last 12 months. **(provide name(s))**
- ☐ F. The Board has submitted a resolution to CABE for consideration by the CABE Delegate Assembly in last two years. **(provide resolution(s))**
- ☐ G. The Board ensures that all collective bargaining agreements and the superintendent's contract are sent in a timely manner to CABE's Negotiations Service. **(provide date information sent)**

CABE Board Recognition Awards

Board Leadership Award and Board of Distinction Award

Level Two *(minimum of two)*

- ☐ A. Representatives of the Board presented a workshop related to a district initiative at the annual CABE/CAPSS Convention or NSBA Convention. ***(provide a copy of any handouts and presentation materials)***
- ☐ B. The Board has sponsored a Legislative Breakfast or some other legislative event. ***(provide invitation or agenda)***
- ☐ C. The Board works closely with its local legislative delegation to improve the schools. ***(provide description)***
- ☐ D. The Board sponsors an annual area meeting. ***(provide agenda)***

Optional Question:

Level One

Please tell us what, in your opinion, makes your Board's leadership especially effective.
Feel free to provide any information that other Boards would find beneficial in learning about your Board's leadership.

Level Two

Please tell us what, in your opinion, makes your Board's leadership especially effective in improving student achievement.

CABE Board Recognition Awards

Board Leadership Award and Board of Distinction Award

To be eligible for the Board of Distinction Award, a motion must be made at a board meeting to approve the application. If the majority votes in favor, the Board Chair and Superintendent should sign below (***please attach minutes***).

_____	_____
Board Chair	Date
_____	_____
Superintendent	Date

CABE Board Recognition Awards 2026

Madison Public Schools Board of Education

1. Board Leadership/Student Achievement (Level Two)

- A. The Board annually reviews a variety of student performance metrics and funds interventions when necessary.
- C. The Board has adopted policies regulating the use of district-issued and personal technology in the classroom: [#5090.9 Use of Private Technology Devices by Students](#), [#5210 Student Use of the District's Computer Systems and Internet Safety](#)
- D. Examples: [Academic Results presentation](#) to the BOE, Oct. 14, 2025; [Cell Phone Survey Results](#) to the BOE on Feb. 10, 2026

2. Board Member Professional Development (Level 2)

- B. Policy on professional development: [#9820.1 Board Member Conferences, Conventions, and Workshops](#)
- C. November 2025 Retreat [Agenda](#) , September 2025 Retreat [Agenda](#)

3. Policy (Level Two)

- A. Agenda examples:
<https://meetings.boardbook.org/Public/Agenda/2416?meeting=730603>
<https://meetings.boardbook.org/Public/Agenda/2416?meeting=717297>
- B. Agenda examples:
<https://meetings.boardbook.org/Public/Agenda/2416?meeting=718915>
<https://meetings.boardbook.org/Public/Agenda/2416?meeting=720889>
- D. Policy [#9300 Code of Conduct for Board Members](#)

4. Community Relations (Level Two)

- B. The Board works with the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance to produce a Capital Improvement Program that strategically funds both school and town capital projects while minimizing impact to the taxpayer.
<https://www.madisonct.org/592/Capital-Improvement-Program-Committee>
- C. The Board provides the local cable access channel recordings of all board meetings within 24 hours for broadcast on the local cable access channel.
- D. The Board chair in 25-26 was a CABE area leader, we attend legislative breakfasts and other regional board events, we hosted neighboring boards to tour our new elementary school.

5. Related Organizational Leadership (Level Two)

- B. legislative breakfast Spring 2026 invite: [Attachment 1](#)
- C. The Board worked with its local legislators to move from the LEARN to the ACES area to become a receiving District with the Choice Program:
<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2026/ACT/PA/PDF/2026PA-00001-R00SB-00298-PA.PDF>

Board of Distinction Vote: September 15, 2026, Minutes



Fwd: 2026 CABA Area 8 Legislative Breakfast

Thu, Jan 8, 2026 at 11:16 AM

From: Gail Heath <noreply@cabe.myenotice.com>
Date: Jan 8, 2026 at 10:35 AM
To: Cookec <cookec@madison.k12.ct.us>
Subject: 2026 CABA Area 8 Legislative Breakfast



CABA Area 8 Co-Directors Seth Klaskin, Susan Owens and Kim Walker

invite you to a Legislative Breakfast on

January 27, 2026

9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

**Neck River Elementary School
180 Mungertown Road
Madison, CT 06443**

Please [click here](#) to register online.

***Legislators please RSVP directly to gheath@cabe.org**

Please [click here](#) for directions.

This is an opportunity for legislators, superintendents and school board members to discuss education issues.

Note: If **Madison** schools are delayed or closed the event is canceled.

**CABA AREA 8
INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING TOWNS**

Chester
Clinton
Cromwell

Essex
Guilford
Madison

Region 4
Region 13
Region 17

Deep River
East Haddam
East Hampton

Middletown
Old Saybrook
Portland

Region 18
Westbrook



Connecticut Association of Boards of Education

81 Wolcott Hill Road
Wethersfield, CT 06109

Phone: 860-571-7446

Fax: 860-571-7452

www.cabe.org

[Unsubscribe Link](#)

Unsubscribe from this mailing list
